

*Lottery prize not just 'hot air'*

# Winds ground launching of 'Rainbow'



The inaugural flight of Acton's Rainbow Airlines didn't exactly get off the ground on the weekend, because strong winds threatened to impale the balloon on a tree. Actario's early bird winner, Kay James, who won the prize of a free trip aloft, had the awarding of her prize held up until the winds die down. The trip is planned for some time this week, provided Mother Nature co-operates and Mrs. James overcomes her reluctance to trust a big bag of hot air to hold her up.

The maiden flight of Acton's own "Rainbow Airlines" didn't get off the ground on the weekend, but in spite of the hitch that developed in the awarding of Actario's first prize, tickets for the lottery are still selling well.

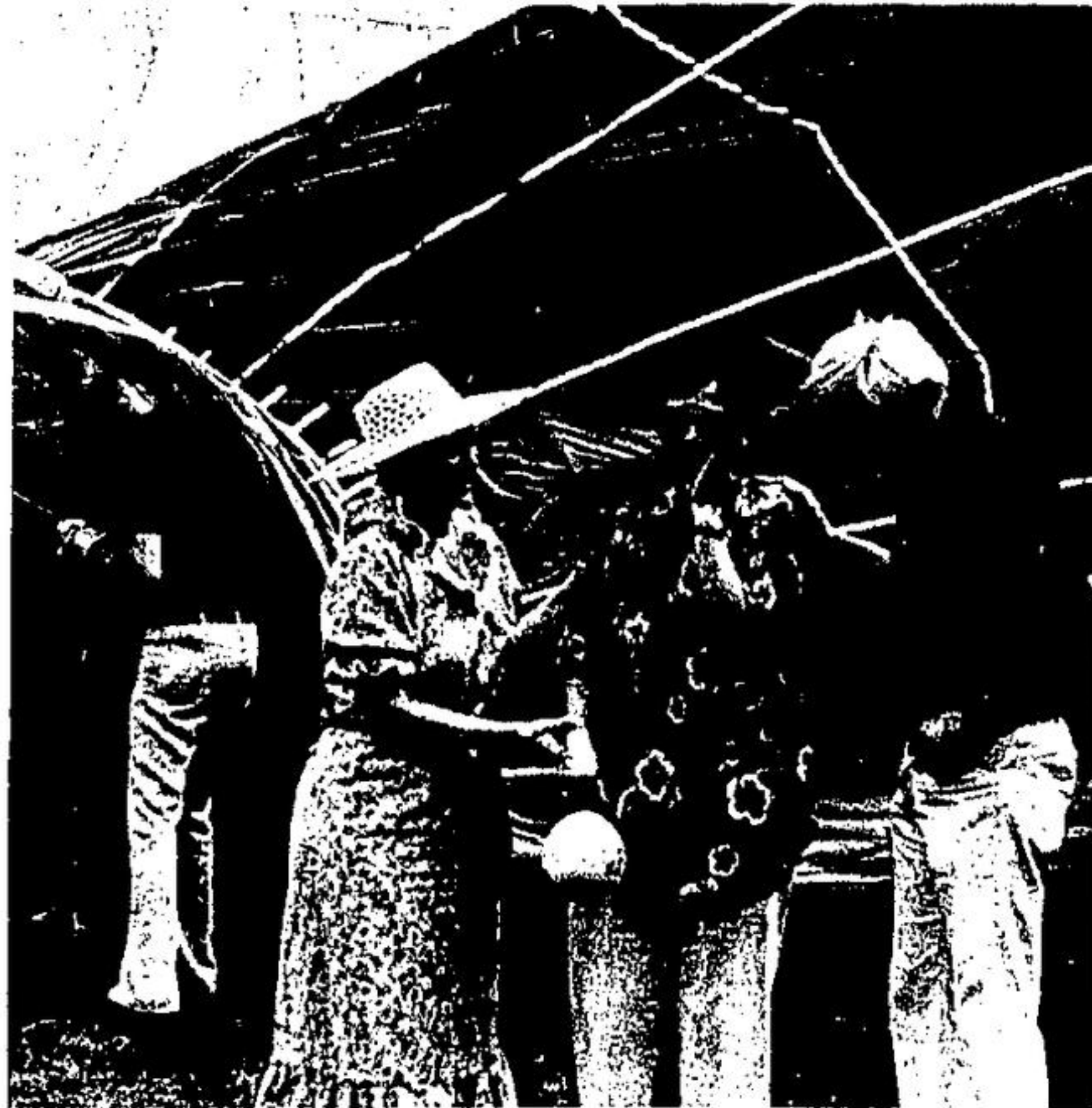
The launching of the huge hot air balloon, which has been dubbed the premier ship in Rainbow Airlines, was postponed until the winds die down, and should take place some time this week. Earlybird winner Kay James, was originally scheduled to go up in the balloon, owned and flown by Al Russell, early Saturday morning.

Ted Tyler, one of the organizers of the Actario Lottery, said that only 100 of the 1,000 tickets available have been turned back in. He estimates, however, that there are about 600 tickets in circulation in Acton, and they're disappearing fairly quickly.

Mr. Tyler said most of Acton's service clubs have tickets. Chairman of the ticket committee is Jake Kulken, and anyone wanting tickets can contact him.

"We're well within our plans (for ticket sales)," Mr. Tyler said. "People generally speaking are talking well of it. It's good odds, and if we keep doing crazy little things like this (balloon flight), it will be fun too."

The proceeds from the lottery will be used to pay Acton's share of the cost of renovating the old Acton town hall. The lottery will feature weekly cash prizes and bonus prize draws. The draws will begin in September and run for 52 weeks. Each month, there will be a draw for a trip.



Alma Sweetman and Carl Rosenquist tried hard to reassure Kay James that she has nothing to fear about going up in the balloon, but it doesn't look as if they're having much success. Mrs. James was heard once or twice to wonder aloud if she could have a refund of the price of her ticket as she watched the balloon being inflated.



The big balloon which is the flagship of Rainbow Airlines holds a lot of air. A big fan is used to direct the air into the balloon to inflate it, and a propane heater at the top of the basket heats the air to further expand the balloon and increase the buoyancy. Actario's tickets sales chairman Jake Kulken lent a helping hand in getting the air in, but it was all for naught, as the balloon had to be deflated again shortly afterward.

Herald story and photos by Lori Taylor



Rainbow Airlines' premier craft looked pretty flimsy at 9 a.m. when it had not yet been inflated. The balloon is owned by Halton Hills Ballooney, which is owned by Al Russell. Mr. Russell didn't have the opportunity to demonstrate his ballooning skills on the weekend, much to everyone's disappointment. The preparation of the balloon for flight was fascinating to watch, even though it had to be deflated again without ever getting off the ground.



This is the airport limousine service which transported the first passenger of Rainbow Airlines to the Prospect Park Airport Saturday. The limousine is owned by Bert Robertson. Accompanying Actario winner Kay James, possibly to keep her from jumping out and running away, are Ward 1 councillor Terry Grubbe and Stella Brunelle.